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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/658,250	09/09/2003	John R. Scattergood	Scattergood 1	7669

7590 05/16/2006

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, DINH Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3752

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/658,250

Applicant(s)

SCATTERGOOD, JOHN R.

Examiner

Dinh Q. Nguyen

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-9, 11-22, 24-35, 38-40, 42-51 and 53-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 34, 38 and 55-61 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-9, 11-22, 24-31 and 63-65 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 32, 33, 35, 39, 40, 42-49, 51, 53, 54 and 62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 50 and 66 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 32-35, 38, 40, 53-62, and 66 are objected to because of the following informalities: in lines 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8, of claim 32, "the material" should read --the melted material--. Appropriate correction is required. Furthermore, Applicant is required to correct the above lacks of antecedent basis to claims 33-35, 38, 40, 53-62, and 66.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 33, 35, 40 are recites the limitation "the containment portion" in line 2 of claim 33 and 35, and lines 1 and 2 of claim 40. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
6. Claims 32, 39, 42-49, 51, 53, 54, 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Poole et al.

Poole et al. discloses a method of atomizing a melted material comprising: accelerating the melted material 22 by the propelling fluid or nitrogen gas (see column 4, lines 56+) in reservoir 7, flowing an atomizing fluid in reservoir 7 across an exposed surface of the melted material 22 as the melted material coming out of orifice plate 6, the exposed surface of the melted material is the surfaces of the stream 22 coming out of nozzle 2 as shown in figure 2 in a way such that the melted material experiencing an acceleration force of the atomizing fluid (pushing the sideways against gravitational force pulling down on the melted material), and entraining the liquid droplets of the melted material in the atomizing fluid such that the liquid droplets aerosolized and creating fine particulates 21 as shown in figure 2 .

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-22, 24-31, 63-65 are allowed. Claim 1 is generic and allowable. Accordingly, the restriction requirement as to the encompassed species is hereby withdrawn and claims 3, 7, 24-30, directed to the species of Figures 11-18, 21-24 no longer withdrawn from consideration since all of the claims to this species depend from or otherwise include each of the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

8. Claims 50, and 66 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 4/10/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive with regard to claims 32, 39, 42-49, 51, 53, 54, 62.

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10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 32, 39, 42-49, 51, 53, 54, 62 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

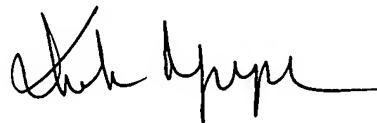
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dinh Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4907. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Scherbel can be reached on 571-272-4919. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dinh Q Nguyen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dinh Q Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3752

dqn